

**From:** [Barmakian, Nancy](#)  
**To:** [Norcross, Jeffrey](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ticks  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 07, 2020 1:36:02 PM

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**From:** Koethe, Robert <Koethe.Robert@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 3:41 PM  
**To:** Szylvian, Andrea M. <Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Barmakian, Nancy <Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Ticks

Andrea,

Thanks for the suggestion to follow-up with the EPA IPM Center. While the Center's technical expertise is limited, at the very least, we can pass on the concerns of our RA and maybe discuss on one of the quarterly calls.

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**From:** Szylvian, Andrea M. <Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 3:20 PM  
**To:** Koethe, Robert <Koethe.Robert@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Ticks

Think you covered the topic as best that can be---given present reality. (the past reality wasn't that much better)

This is tough as that 1 pest relative to the host of others is hard.

However, it is a topic that we could chat about at the end of years—and based on info we collect—might be able to formulate some ideas going forward.

What happened to the CoE—didn't they change the focus to Public Health Pests or something like that? Recall seeing some wildly over ambitious work plan or list of activities maybe a year or 2 ago—thought ticks were part of that.

Where is the CoE, Thomas Cook & the military guy from R 6? Did they dissolve that effort?

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**From:** Koethe, Robert <[Koethe.Robert@epa.gov](#)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 2:26 PM  
**To:** Szylvian, Andrea M. <[Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov](#)>  
**Subject:** FW: Ticks

Andrea,

Nancy contacted me to ask you if you had anything to add to my response. Apparently the RA is very interested in this issue.

Rob

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**From:** Koethe, Robert

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:45 PM

**To:** Barmakian, Nancy <[Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Szylvian, Andrea M. <[Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov](mailto:Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Ticks

Nancy,

I will follow-up on what is happening in Maine and elsewhere.

In the meantime, pesticide use and IPM for ticks and other vectors are increasing concerns in the Northeast and across the country. A couple of years ago EPA held weekly calls on Zika virus following the outbreaks of Zika in Brazil and Puerto Rico. While EPA and CDC were most concerned with Zika in Puerto Rico, there were concerns in Florida and Texas. From my vantage point once Zika was no longer a front page issue it appears the Agency's interest in vectors diminished and we moved on to other priorities.

Fortunately Agency has tools and influence to impact public health related to vector management issues. Besides pesticide registration support we can support outreach and education via small grants, direct education, research and regulatory technical support.

EPA's tick/tick-borne disease programs mostly focus on personal protection, but there is no "silver bullet." Instead the best protection include:

- use of repellents,
- possibly use of pesticide-treated clothing,
- tick checks after coming indoors,
- showering immediately after coming indoors after being in tick infested areas,
- attention to pets that might carry ticks indoors,
- for homeowners, considering perimeter sprays of tick-control products in yards,
- personal behavior and choices when in the outdoors (avoiding the edges of trails, wearing light colored clothing, long-sleeves and long pants, etc.).

Western Connecticut University just finished up a community grant on tick education and management to avoid tick-bites. I was technical contact for the grant and Myra Schwartz was the grant P.O. I feel like EPA's input added much value to the final product and I believe the grantees did an excellent job on this EPA supported project. I would be happy to send you their final report if you wish.

In any case, more information is to come after we follow-up on contacts with states.

Rob

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**From:** Barmakian, Nancy <[Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2019 6:34 PM  
**To:** Koethe, Robert <[Koethe.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Koethe.Robert@epa.gov)>; Szylvian, Andrea M. <[Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov](mailto:Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Ticks

I passed on the info you both provided to Dennis during my meeting at the end of last week. Thanks so much. He is interested in knowing what your ideas are to get rid of ticks (think war on ticks). He isn't asking what our authority is-he is asking what can be done. I think this interest is stemming from discussions he had with folks in Maine. Not sure what information is out there but anything you can find out would be appreciated.

Nancy

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**From:** Koethe, Robert <[Koethe.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Koethe.Robert@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 2:39 PM  
**To:** Barmakian, Nancy <[Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Szylvian, Andrea M. <[Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov](mailto:Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Ticks

Nancy,

I am happy to learn there is still interest by EPA in ticks. EPA has roles in tick control because, under FIFRA, EPA registers pesticides used for tick control and repellency. The Agency also supports IPM and pesticide education.

Regarding my RARE report, I have attached the journal article we published on our findings. This paper is frequently viewed and cited by the scientific community. Our data is also used by Cooperative Extension and others across the country but especially on Cape Cod. This multi-year study involved evaluating the usefulness of animal host targeted pesticide applications through use of 4-poster deer feeding stations as a way to reduce blacklegged tick (deer tick) populations, the vector of Lyme disease in New England. Our study found the 4-posters did reduce tick populations but that the reductions, while significant, were small. Our study indicated that 4-posters alone would not likely reduce tick populations enough to be suitable as a stand-alone strategy tick control.

Regarding follow-up on ticks and vectors, EPA ORD had an initiative on human health and biodiversity around the time we conducted our 4-poster study. ORD ended its program a while ago. More recently the EPA IPM Center, which previously supported the Strategic Ag Initiative, has Vector Management as a core area for program support. As part of its educational program the Center sponsors periodic webinars.

Regarding things happening in the NE states additional to what Andrea may provide, I still track

vector management issues and am asked to provide support on vector issues to the states and others from time-to-time. NH partnered with its state public health agency to conduct outreach on ticks (I think to schools). David Rousseau did a number of sessions. The grant, which was a state grant, was reported to EPA on the state P&C list. I was assigned to track P&C list activities, including for this public health initiative which ended in 2019.

In addition to LD all the NE states have problems with new invasive ticks such as the Lone Star Tick. Also, all of northern NE has problems with winter tick (moose tick) which is decimating moose populations. It is believed the most important reason for increased survival of winter ticks, and subsequent impacts on moose survival, is related to lack of snow cover at critical times in the winter and spring.

Regarding Maine, the Maine Medical Center has a Lyme and vector- borne disease testing laboratory ([http://mmcri.org/ns/?page\\_id=15685](http://mmcri.org/ns/?page_id=15685)). The lab has increased its visibility and likely has upgraded its programs. Because of threats from ticks and mosquitoes all NE states are focusing on emerging public health concerns.

In summary EPA has important roles for tick and other vector management issues, mostly through the pesticide program but, seems to defer to CDC on most research, education, outreach and targeted financial support.

Please let me know if you would like additional information.

Rob

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**From:** Barmakian, Nancy [Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov)

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 1:05 PM

**To:** Koethe, Robert <[Koethe.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Koethe.Robert@epa.gov)>; Szylvian, Andrea M. <[Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov](mailto:Szylvian.Andrea@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Ticks

At the end of our OD meeting today Dennis asked me what we are doing about ticks. Rob-I know you did a Rare multi-year tick study. Can I see a copy of the final report? And are there any recommendations from the study? To who? Any follow-up? Does EPA have any role with ticks/lyme disease?

Andrea-do any of our states have \$ to address this issue? Dennis mentioned that Maine had mentioned issues with ticks to him. Thanks so much.

Nancy